



Ready★corps

A program of the Washington Service Corps

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Washington State
SERVICE CORPS

Special points of Interest!

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**"AmeriCorps is doing a
great job for Walla Walla
County."**

Don Marlatt, Emergency Manager,
Walla Walla County

Welcome to Ready*Corps! Building Disaster-Resistant Communities in Washington State

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Ready*Corps, a new statewide AmeriCorps program administered by the Washington Service Corps (WSC) and based in Olympia, WA. Our program focuses on homeland security issues relating to disaster preparedness, emergency planning and community outreach activities. Our Ready*Corps Ameri-



A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training coordinated by a Ready*Corps VISTA member.

Corps members serve with a variety of agencies and organizations (called host sites) including emergency management agencies, fire and sheriff's departments, local Red Cross Chapters and other

community based organizations.

Included in this newsletter is a brief background of the program followed by examples of the service projects that our Ready*Corps members work on.

Background of the Ready*Corps Program



The AmeriCorps Alliance team focuses on disaster preparedness issues in Pierce County.

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, homeland security became a new priority of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which

is the federal funding agency for AmeriCorps programs throughout the nation. Ready*Corps is part of an initiative to increase the readiness of communities, espe-

cially low-income communities, throughout the State of Washington to respond to disaster related disruptions. In May 2003, our first group of seven AmeriCorps

continued

"Using Ready*Corps, we have been able to improve our program for training citizens to be better prepared and ready to assist with disasters."
Michelle LaMarche, Homeland Security Coordinator, Franklin County OEM

Ready*Corps Background, Continued

members were placed in several of the newly created Homeland Security Regions throughout the state to assist in the development of Citizen Corps Councils and Commu-

nity Emergency Response Team (CERT) training programs. Over the last two years, our program has expanded to serve a large variety of new host site organizations and we are currently enrolled at over 50 members s t r o n g — m a k i n g Ready*Corps one of the largest disaster preparedness

AmeriCorps programs in the nation. In the Spring of 2005, we will begin to look for new agencies that are interested in hosting a Ready*Corps member who will start their term August 2005.



Partici- pants in a mock air crash in Spokane.

Community-Based Activities/Non-Profit Partnerships

S o w h a t d o Ready*Corps members do?



A Red Cross team responding to recent hurricanes.



American Red Cross
 Mount Rainier Chapter

We have several Ready*Corps members serving with local Red Cross Chapters. They work on many activities including volunteer recruitment and training. One of our Ready*Corps members

even developed and launched a pilot disaster preparedness program at Ft. Lewis called the Safe Neighbor Network, an innovative community safety program. We are also proud to report that several of our members responded to the Florida hurricanes this past fall serving in a variety of supporting roles.

School-Based Activities/Partnerships

Two new teams of Ready*Corps members were established in 2004 to serve in public school districts. One team is planning and carrying out mock disaster drills and organizing a Safety Week, which includes CPR and first aid training, visiting children

in schools, and raising funds for emergency supplies. They



A safety fair.

use a character they created, Duck N. Cover (who stars in his own book) to teach children about safety.

Another team is currently developing after school safety clubs that focus on issues such as family earthquake preparedness, fire safety and other relevant topics geared towards middle school students

Emergency Management Activities /Local Government Partnerships



Ready* Corps AmeriCorps members continue to serve in emergency manage-

ment offices and local sheriff departments. Members are actively coordinating CERT and other Citizen Corps programs in Spokane, Thurston, Benton/Franklin, and Walla Walla Counties. Members also assist in developing and updating comprehensive emergency management plans (CEMP) and hazard identification and vulnerabil-

ity assessments (HIVA). Members engage in outreach activities geared towards minority and other underserved populations as well.



A CERT team participating in a CERT rodeo.



National Service Through AmeriCorps- How do I get a Ready*Corps AmeriCorps member at my site?

The Washington Service Corps administers several AmeriCorps programs throughout the state. Ready*Corps AmeriCorps members serve for 10 1/2 months or 12 months at designated host sites and work side by side with other agency staff. Our members generally start in the late summer and early fall of each year. During their term of service, Ready*Corps AmeriCorps members

receive benefits which are provided by the Washington Service Corps including:

- A modest monthly living allowance of approximately \$785-900, depending on where they serve.
- Health insurance.
- Optional child care assistance.
- Re-location allowance (for VISTA only.)
- A \$4725 education voucher for college or a \$1200 cash stipend at the end of the term of service.

Starting in the Spring of 2005, a Request for Applicants will go out to all agencies who are interested in hosting a Ready*Corps member for the 2005-2006 program year. The selection process is competitive and only those agencies with high quality proposals will be considered. In addition, there is a required cash match of \$4,000 per member, which assists in offsetting required program administrative costs. The Washington Service Corps will also provide assistance in recruiting suitable members to serve at your site and you always have the final say in choosing your candidate.



A CERT team training debrief

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

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Ready*Corps

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"I have been extremely pleased with the quality of the VISTA volunteers that King County Office of Emergency Management has been able to obtain. While each person is unique, we have found their character and skills to be of a superior nature. Our VISTA volunteers have had to work fairly independently with great latitude in the manner in which they perform their responsibilities. Emergency management organizations should look for ways to tap into this great resource that can only help to make their communities more disaster resistant."

Eric Holdeman, Director

King County Office of Emergency Management

Ready*Corps Host Agencies—Past and Present

- Homeland Security Region 2
- Homeland Security Region 3
- Homeland Security Region 4
- Homeland Security Region 5
- Homeland Security Region 6
- Homeland Security Region 8
- Homeland Security Region 9
- Adventist Community Services
- Alliance for Children, Youth and Families
- American Red Cross-Inland Northwest Chapter
- American Red Cross-Mount Rainier Chapter
- American Red Cross-North Cascades Chapter
- Bethel Public School District
- Benton/Franklin County Emergency Management
- Central Pierce Fire and Rescue
- Chelan County Sheriff/Emergency Management
- City Chaplain
- City of Woodland Fire
- Clark County Fire Districts 1, 9, 11, 12
- Clover Park Technical College
- EMS/Trauma Council-Spokane
- Franklin Pierce School District
- Helping Hand House
- King County Office of Emergency Management
- King County Housing Authority
- Kittitas County Sheriff
- Mason County Fire District 5
- Mason County Sheriff/Emergency Management
- Pierce County Emergency Management
- Pierce County Health Department
- Benton/Franklin County Volunteer Center
- Safe Streets
- Selah Parks and Recreation
- Shalom Zone Non-profit Association/ROOTS
- Spokane Public School District
- Spokane Sheriff's Community Oriented Policing Effort (SCOPE)
- Tacoma Housing Authority
- Tonasket Police Department
- United Way of Yakima County
- Walla Walla County Emergency Management
- Washington State Emergency Management Division
- Yakima County Fire District 12-West Valley Fire